

Appl. No. 10/260/108
Amendment dated May 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of February 28, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office action dated February 28, 2006, setting forth a shortened three month statutory period for reply expiring on May 28, 2006. Because May 28, 2006 was a Sunday, and because Monday May 29, 2006 was a holiday (Labor Day), a response filed by Tuesday, May 30, 2006 is within the three month statutory period.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-12 were pending in the application, with claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 11 and 12 being independent claims. In brief review, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2 and 12 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,842,320 to Mathur et al. (hereinafter the Mathur patent). The Examiner has also allowed claims 4 and 6-11.

By this Amendment, claims 1-2 and 12 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 4, 6-9, 10, 11 are now pending with claims 4, 6, 10, 11 being independent claims. Reconsideration of the application and claims is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that claims 4 and 6-11 are allowable. Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability of these claims.

As to the rejections of claims 1-2 and 12 under 35 USC 102 in view of the Mathur patent, because claims 1-2 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice, this rejection is now moot.

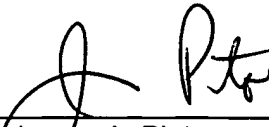
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, claims 4 and 6-11 remain in the application and are believed to be allowable. No further fees are believed to be due with this Amendment. If there are any questions regarding this application, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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